

I, as well as numerous other pilots and businesses that utilize this airport, are puzzled on why the Orleans Levee District would oppose a mere 60 day extension. They have received numerous extensions throughout this entire program over the last three years. As far as the "numerous public meetings" referred to by Mr. J.E.Murdock III I would like to know how many of those meetings did he attend? Why was the bid received and not brought out to a full public hearing until 4 months later? Obviously, a fifty year lease should not be taken lightly. Since this is the last airport being reviewed in the initial program the FAA should make sure all of the people and taxpayers are heard. Just the fact that 3 out of the initial 5 airports have been denied the right to privatize speaks for itself. I am confident there will be more serious issues to this proposal in the real near future. Organizations such as AOPA don't randomly ask for extensions unless there is concern for the future of such proposals. Therefore, the FAA should grant the extension of 60 days based on the facts submitted by the AOPA. Additionally, I held a public meeting on this issue February 12, 2003 as an AOPA Volunteer. I can say there were over a 100 people in attendance that did not understand the concept of what is taking place. I have been contacted by various neighborhood civic groups in reference to this issue as well. In times such as this, the last thing the Honorable Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District should want, is to hand over an asset such as Lakefront Airport unless the deal has been independently researched. AOPA has expertise, the utmost of integrity and a proven track record on these issues. What is 60 days compared to fifty years?